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COAL MINES ADOPT LONGWALL METHOD

SHANTUNG MINES INCREASE PRODUCTION -- Tsinan Ta-chung Pao, 4 Jul 50

Tsinan -- The adoption of the new longwall mining method by authorities at the Hsi-ho (1) numbers refer to appended characters, Hung-shan (2), Chia-wang (3), and Hsin-po (4) coal mines has already proved effective and provided valuable experience.

At its first Coal Mining Conference in January, the Shantung Bureau of Mining resolved to revise mining techniques. But a general lack of enthusiasm and comprehension on the part of leaders among the mining cadres, engineers, and members of the bureau prevented the adoption of the new method. Ch'en-yu (5), Chief of the Central Ministry of Fuel Industry, made an inspection tour of Shantung in mid-March and the new system was put into effect in the opening days of April at the above-mentioned mines.

To facilitate control, five coal pits were chosen from among the four mines in which to conduct the experiment. In the first period of experimentation, the authorities took a relatively serious attitude toward the project. Estimates were made by the engineers; the workmen involved in the experiment were organized into longwall squads. Essential cadres and engineers themselves assumed leadership and designated the assignments of the more effective skilled workers and engineers. As soon as the operations had begun, however, the workmen showed fear and concern, saying they were "in no rush to dig out all the coal in the ground." The engineers then announced the longwall estimates and explained the good points and working methods of the new system. After studying the problem, the workers gradually overcame their worry and wished to institute the project.

After 2 months, considerable results had been achieved. The five pits had produced a total of over 12,000 tons of coal. Aside from the Hung-shan Mine, where four workmen incurred slight injuries, there were no casualties. Miners' efficiency has risen at Hung-shan and Hsi-ho, and a new record has been set at Chia-wang. Group efficiency also has risen at Hsi-ho and Chia-wang.

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In the face of these experiences, the cadres, engineers, skilled workers, and miners all regarded the longwall method more highly than before. But weak points remain: in some cases, overheads have collapsed after only a few days; some supports are not properly aligned; cadre leadership is weak.

Consequently, group efficiency has fallen at Hsin-po and Hung-shan. At the Hsi-ho Mine, the miners have not been sufficiently educated in the new longwall method and there is much concern among them. If the miners hear any noise in the overheads, they run in confusion from their pits. Insufficient attention has also been given the practice of comparing notes, devising improvements, and the like. The system, after 2 months, still needs certain refinements. Undoubtedly the one factor in longwall mining which demands most serious consideration is the matter of controlling the overheads.

NORTHEAST MINES RAISE OUTPUT -- Mukden Tung-pei Jih-pao, 15 Jul 50

Mukden -- The quality and quantity of coal output has improved markedly since the new longwall technique was introduced at the Hao-kang (6), Chi-hsi (7), and Fou-hsin (8) mines, which are under the jurisdiction of the Northeast Bureau of Coal Mines. Under the leadership of Soviet technicians, the new method has been extensively applied at the mines. The No 120 Pit at the Hao-kang Tung-shan Mine has gradually raised daily production from 240-370 tons to a record 675 tons since the application of mechanized coal mining. At the No 3 Shaft of the Chi-hsi Ma-shan Mine, the rock content of the coal has been brought from 11 percent down to 2.25 percent (the quota maximum is 5 percent).

Production costs have dropped steadily. The Hao-kang Hsing-shan Mine produced over 79,200 tons of coal in May (40 percent over its quota) at a cost of 381,621 yuan per ton. A total saving in excess of 315,298,000 yuan was effected for the month, which represents a drop of 22 percent from first-quarter production costs. The expense in terms of wages has also fallen. In April, each ton of coal mined represented 116,320 yuan in wages. During May, this figure dropped to 82,907 yuan.

Since the new longwall method of mechanized mining replaced the old pillar-and-stall system, the production rate at the No 3 Shaft of the Chi-hsi Ma-shan Mine has risen from 48 percent to 84 percent while one gang at the Fou-hsin Mine reports 100-percent efficiency.

## CHARACTERS

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|--------|--------|
| 1. 西 河 | 5. 陳 郁 |
| 2. 洪 山 | 6. 鶴 崗 |
| 3. 賈 汪 | 7. 雞 西 |
| 4. 新 博 | 8. 阜 新 |

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